

POLICE DEPARTMENT

K-9 Bob Retires from Police Dept.



The Duxbury Police Department announces the retirement of K-9 Bob after 9 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Town of Duxbury. Bob, who has been the loyal and devoted partner to Lt. Susan James, has been a positive asset to the community and the Duxbury Police Department and will be missed by all who knew him.

The K-9 unit was proposed and established in 1987 by Lieutenant Susan James, with guidance and support from former Police Chief Enrico Cappucci. Bob von Diamantanstein, as he is officially known, was 3 years old when he arrived from Germany in 1986. Having already been trained as a working dog, with the title Schutzhund I, his trainers recognized that Bob had additional instincts, an inherent ability to detect illegal drugs. In 1987 both Bob and Lt. James participated in an intensive 14 week narcotic detection school conducted by the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department. Subsequently, Bob and Lt. James received additional specialized training and in 1988, Bob became certified as the first patrol dog assigned to the Duxbury Police Department. Bob will forever remain known for his many accomplishments during his 9 years of service to the Town of Duxbury and other South Shore communities.

In addition to his tireless work assignments in Duxbury, Bob managed to be awarded several national international police working dog titles which tested his ability to track, protect, and obey. Bob's titles included the DPO I, DPO II, WPO, and PDII designations—each considered a high honor and distinguished accomplishment in their own right. In addition to his achievements at home, Bob competed in national competitions in Massachusetts, Kentucky, New Mexico, and Ohio. He became the 3rd highest ranking police dog in the United States for 3 years in a row.

Bob returned to Germany along with Lt. James to receive additional training where they competed in international police dog competitions, representing not only the Duxbury Police Department, but the entire United States as part of TEAM USA.

A police dog handler must spend significant time with their K-9 partner during which time they train, work, live, and play together. During this time of intense training and practical application of K-9 principles, a strong and lasting bond develops between the dog and his handler. This relationship is founded upon mutual trust and respect. Both K-9 and handler seem to be able to sense each other's thoughts and predict each other's reactions. This creates a dynamic police K-9 team that produces positive results.

Bob has received several commendations from surrounding communities as well as Duxbury for searches, drug investigations, and the apprehension of wanted persons. He has visited nursing homes, schools, churches, and civic organizations giving public demonstrations and promoting drug education in the community. He has been on television and has appeared in newspapers, both locally and in Boston. Bob has assisted police agencies within Massachusetts as well as departments across New England. In 1989, Bob received the coveted Silas Award for distinguished service. The Silas Award is given annually by the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department in memory of K-9 Silas who gave his life in the line of duty protecting his partner, Capt. James Ballinger.

Bob continues to be the loving companion of Lt. James and at the age of 13 1/2 is enjoying his retirement in their home. Notwithstanding his retirement, Bob continues to get excited in the presence of uniformed police officers and howls when he hears a passing siren or sees flashing blue lights.

During Bob's tenure with the department, the K-9 Unit was strongly supported by the community as well as the schools, churches and civic organizations. American Legion Post 223 deserves significant credit for their sponsorship and financial support of the program. The generosity of the members and friends of the American Legion played a pivotal role in the development and continuation of the Duxbury Police K-9 Unit through their establishment of a fund dedicated to the purchase of equipment, training, and care for the K-9. The community's help and sanction of the K-9 program is greatly appreciated by the men, women and canines of the Duxbury Police Department who are proud to serve. With the continuation of the K-9 program, the Duxbury American Legion has voted to continue their sponsorship in memory of Duxbury Police Lt. Edmund Cuneo, a highly respected former member of the department who always held a special place in his heart for Bob and the Duxbury Police Department K-9 program. Contributions to the fund may be made to "The Duxbury Police K-9 Fund", Duxbury Police Department, 443 West St., Duxbury, MA 02332, Attention: Lt. Susan James.

In order to ensure that the retirement of Bob did not adversely affect the community, Lt. James initiated a search for a successor to Bob. The Duxbury Police Department has selected 8 year veteran officer Timothy Wigmore to continue the program within the department. Recently Officer Wigmore and his partner Bax completed a 16-week police patrol dog school held at the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department. As with Bob, the program was administered under the capable leadership of Capt. James Ballinger. Bax is a 2 year old German Shepherd who came to the United States from Czechoslovakia in the fall of 1996. As Bob did before him, Bax will live at home with his family, in this case Officer Wigmore, his wife Cheryl and their 2 children T.J. and Melissa. Officer Wigmore with the assistance of his partner, Bax, will continue to deter and solve crimes, find lost and injured citizens, and help to educate children and adults in crime prevention and the dangers of drug abuse. As a team, they are sure to be versatile and a popular asset to the community.

The Duxbury Police Department expresses its sincerest thanks to all who have supported its efforts at maintaining Duxbury as a safe and appealing community to live and raise our families.

The Duxbury Police Department plans a changing of the guard ceremony where K-9 Bob will officially relinquish his position to K-9 Bax. The ceremony will take place on June 25 at 10:30 am at Bumpus Park located across from the King Caesar House on King Caesar Rd. In the event of rain the ceremony will be held at American Legion Post 223.

For additional information, contact Lt. Susan James at 934-5656.